

## FOREWORD

I am delighted to present this report which draws together a corpus of wide ranging information to document inequalities in health and social care in Northern Ireland that are relevant to the New Targeting Social Need (New TSN) policy. Also, where data permit, the overview includes information about differences that exist between the statutory equality categories of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act. The focus is on diversity and variations within Northern Ireland although, of course, it is recognised that comparisons with other regions and countries are also important.

The document originated in two action points in the Department's New TSN Action Plan, including the Base Report for a new Inequalities Monitoring System. However, the publication has been expanded to embrace the statutory Equality groups and to provide an overview of evidence relating to the impact of the 'Troubles'. The evidence base used is information drawn largely from official data sources – administrative data systems and Government commissioned population surveys, but research evidence is also included. Whilst some of the information has been published previously, the report includes a lot of new data and statistical analyses, most of which has been undertaken by Information and Analysis Directorate (IAD).

I am grateful to the staff in IAD who undertook the painstaking work required to produce such a comprehensive report, especially Michael McKibbin and Regina Coleman. I also wish to express my thanks to all the others who either contributed to the production of the report or provided information and/or comment, particularly Kendrew Colhoun, Jennifer Betts and Pamela Robinson.

I trust that the overview will be of value to a wide range of individuals and organisations. In order to report change over time, results from the Inequalities Monitoring System will be published annually, and further editions of the full report will be prepared periodically. The report is available at <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/stats&research/pubs.asp> and, for staff in the Health and Personal Social Services (HPSS), also at <http://extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk/>. Further copies are available on request.



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